



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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TWO MORE WILDLIFE REFUGES AUTHORIZED

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has authorized the establishment of two new National Wildlife Refuges: one by acquisition of the necessary lands; and the other by lease with the option to purchase, the Department of the Interior reported today. The Commission also authorized the acquisition of additional lands for existing refuges and approved boundary changes in two of them. Total acquisitions authorized were 33,440 acres.

The two new areas will be the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Uintah County, Utah, and the Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge in Crittenden County, Arkansas. The 5,532-acre Wapanocca Refuge is to be acquired by the lease-option-to-purchase basis. There are 9,720 acres of privately owned land in the proposed Ouray Refuge.

The Commission authorized the boundary changes on the Erie Refuge in Crawford County, Pennsylvania, and the Oak Orchard Refuge in Genesee and Orleans counties in New York. There was a net gain of 617 acres in the Oak Orchard adjustment, bringing the total authorized size of that Refuge to 10,774 acres. The Erie boundary adjustment, which does not lessen its value for waterfowl purposes, resulted in a reduction from 6,161 acres authorized to 4,762 acres.

Established refuges for which additional lands were authorized, and the acreages approved for acquisition are: Holla Bend, Arkansas, 12 acres; Chautauqua, Illinois, 16 acres; Canfield Lake, North Dakota, 1,546 acres; Florence Lake, North Dakota, 1,548 acres; Hobart Lake, North Dakota, 1,808 acres; Lake George, North Dakota, 2,499 acres; Columbia, Washington, 140 acres; and McNary, Washington, 185 acres.

The Ouray Refuge in Utah will provide needed protection for the Great Basin goose which has historically nested in that area. Acquisition of the lands which includes leasing 2,222 acres from the Ute Indian tribe was considered advisable to

preserve and develop the oxbow lakes and marshes. The Wapanocca Refuge will be a unit in the National Refuge system and will aid in extending the goose migration to the southern part of the Mississippi Valley.

Members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are: Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, Chairman; Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture; Frederick H. Mueller, Secretary of Commerce; Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., Senator from Missouri; Roman L. Hruska, Senator from Nebraska; Frank M. Karsten, Representative from Missouri; Leon H. Gavin, Representative from Pennsylvania.

The following ex officio members of the Commission attended the meeting: Mr. Nelson Cox, Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Dr. E. L. Cheatum, Assistant Director, Division of Fish and Game, New York; Dr. I. G. Bue, Commissioner, North Dakota Game and Fish Department; Mr. Merton J. Golden, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission; Mr. Harold S. Crane, Director, Utah State Department of Fish and Game; and Mr. John A. Biggs, Director, Washington Department of Game.

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